

else to go; they have somewhere else to go. They are coming here because they received a message from the Biden administration that we are not guarding our borders.

It is apparent they feel the over 800,000 legally vetted immigrants are not enough. It is kind of amazing.

I don't know where the press is in this. The press ought to wake up. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS, other than her 1-day photo op, have largely ignored the border. Wouldn't you think they would be getting nothing but questions as far as what is going on, on the border? Why aren't you down there? Why aren't you seeing what is going on? This will destroy America. America must wake up.

Two weeks ago in the Education and Labor Committee, apparently in an effort to further increase illegal immigration, all 28 Democrats voted specifically to give Pell grants, which is free college, to illegal immigrants—it is unbelievable—while the middle-class families in America are forced to go tens of thousands of dollars in debt to get their college.

We are specifically saying that if you come here illegally, we will give you free college—unbelievable—in addition to promises of free healthcare. It is no wonder that so many people are flooding across our border.

By the way, I want to give our President something to think of. When we appear so weak at the border, I think it tells other countries around the world that we are weak, as well. I don't know what President wants to be known as the weak President, but you don't think that other countries like Iran, groups like the Taliban, Russia, are observing this and taking the measure of what Joe Biden is as he lets people flood across the border?

By the way, we are also finally at a point at which 90,000 Americans are dying every year of illegal drug overdoses. My local law enforcement, who have to deal with the families of the people who die largely because of fentanyl coming across the southern border, wonder why more isn't being done down there. But again, it seems to be, well, middle-class Americans dying of drug overdoses, that is not the priority. So we continue to allow floods coming across the border.

It has been well-publicized that illegal immigrants are coming into America with COVID and other diseases, further causing me to wonder about the sincerity of some of the things that President Biden has said.

I do wonder whether or not the vaccine mandates at the very time that tens of thousands of people are flooding across the border every month, and I do have to wonder about this bizarre bill on Friday, which is certainly going to get headlines as the majority of the House of Representatives votes to legalize abortion until birth, is it an effort to cause the press and even our supposedly conservative news outlets to avert their eyes from the border, as

they have to focus on vaccine mandates and 8½-month abortions?

In any event, I am calling on America to wake up. I realize there is not an election now, but you better make your voice heard, or we are going to lose the border.

#### RECOGNIZING JOYCE “CLARK” SCHRAM ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our great constituents and a great friend of mine, Joyce “Clark” Schram, who celebrated her 90th birthday on June 24. Joyce grew up on a farm, raising cows for milk and butter and chickens for eggs.

To this day, Joyce remembers the winter day in 1936 that her father told them they had to give up their family farm. Joyce compares that day to a funeral. They loaded up and moved to a new farm near Council Bluffs owned by a wealthy man who knew nothing about farming. The Clark family lived on that farm for about 3 years until they moved to another farm east of Crescent, Iowa.

On December 7, 1941, Joyce remembers celebrating her Uncle Leonard's birthday when his father-in-law, who was listening to the radio, shouted from across the big dining room table: “We are at war.” The room became silent. A few hours later, the family learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Months after this, Joyce recalls occasionally hearing the air raid sirens from Omaha and how they had to turn off their lights in their houses until an all-clear signal was given.

Because her family had recently moved, Joyce had a 2-mile trek to her new school. She recalls her father making a path through the timber so she could complete the journey on her pony. Joyce's family moved once again to Council Bluffs, where she attended Thomas Jefferson High School and graduated in 1949. Although she graduated with a scholarship, she sacrificed going to college so that her family would not struggle financially.

Joyce then went to work at Omaha Standard Truck Body for a short time before working at an insurance company. In 1952, she quit and moved back to help out at her family's farm, which was devastated by a flood. After helping her parents for a month, Joyce was offered a job at Mutual of Omaha as a claims auditor. During this time, men were hired more than women, but many men were serving in the Korean war, and Joyce had the skills needed to fill this job role.

That fall, Joyce met her future husband, Conrad “Connie” Schram, shortly before he was deployed to Korea. When he returned a year later, he and Joyce began their courtship, married in 1955, and moved to a farm south of Valley, Nebraska.

In 1956, their son John was born, and in 1957, their daughter Kathleen was born but tragically passed a month later. In 1960, they had a son, but he also, sadly, died at birth. Despite their losses, Joyce and her husband had more children, twin boys, Tim and Tom, who are both friends, and daughter Mary.

Staying in the family business of farming, Joyce and her husband moved from a hill farm in Papillion, Nebraska, to the Hickey farm, which is on ground west of Joyce's house in the Platte River, Iowa, area. They lived there until 1976 when they built their house that Joyce lives in today.

Joyce's husband unexpectedly passed in 1980, leaving Joyce to raise four children. While her twin boys were away at college, her older son John took over the family farm. Joyce said that it was a miracle that the family was able to survive through these tough times after her husband's passing. Joyce credits her children, her sister, Evelyn, and brother-in-law, Norman, for keeping her strong through those tough months.

Joyce went back to school briefly before working for the Sarpy County Election Commission, where she has worked for 12 years to include as the Sarpy County Election Commissioner. In 1996, she was honored and selected as an electoral college member and has been active in the Republican Party for 35 years.

Joyce Schram has lived an eventful, blessed, and full life surrounded by her family and many friends who love and adore her. It should be noted that to this day, Sunday dinner prepared by Joyce has been a staple in her home as long as anyone can remember, and of course, everyone is welcome for dinner.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, we wish Joyce all the best and congratulate her as she celebrates 90 years of life.

#### BETTER EQUIPPING FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, last year, California set a record for the most acres burned in a single year, 4.1 million acres.

Already in 2021, devastating fires have burned through 1.6 million acres of our State. Hundreds, if not thousands, of residents are currently under evacuation orders, uncertain if they will have a home to return to once the orders are lifted.

With another heat wave on its way, fighting the flames will be even more challenging, and the risks are even greater.

Each year, California wildfires destroy our communities and put first responders and our firefighters in danger. As these men and women sacrifice their safety, it is imperative we provide firefighters with the latest and

most advanced firefighting technologies.

Containerized aerial firefighting systems provide ground crews with dependable cover from the air by providing a rapid surge of retardant to attack these fires from multiple points of contact.

These fires can spread and expand at alarming rates, making rapid and aggressive containment strategies absolutely critical.

We must provide firefighters with the tools and resources to do their courageous work effectively and safely.

Billions of dollars are spent each year on recovering and restoring the environment and helping to rebuild communities after wildfires.

By investing in technology to increase our capacity to fight fires, we can reduce the recovery spending and preserve California's renowned parkland and countless families' homes and irreplaceable belongings.

As California faces several devastating wildfires burning through our communities and beloved forestland, I ask my colleagues and the U.S. Forest Service to consider investment in containerized aerial firefighting systems and other technologies and resources.

We have a responsibility to protect our communities, our environment, and the firefighters who run toward danger and sacrifice their safety for the safety of others.

To do so, we must equip these brave men and women with the tools they need.

Again, I ask the Forest Service and my colleagues to examine the latest aerial firefighting capabilities as well as additional resources to protect our state and communities.

#### THOUGHTS AND TAKEAWAYS ON SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, this body just spent several weeks considering a massive spending bill proposed by the Democrats. In my case, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, we went through a 4-day markup considering the bill and debating the bill, and I want to just share some of my thoughts and takeaways.

The number one takeaway is that I just cannot comprehend how my Democrat colleagues on this bill are thinking. In fact, I hope the American people are paying attention because I have never seen such divergent views about how to create prosperity for all Americans. I have never seen such differing opinions about how to do it.

Now, I will give this to the Democrats: I believe they do want to see the American people prosper. They want to help people. I know we as Republicans want to do that, and I hope they grant us that same courtesy of believing that. But this administration has al-

ready spent trillions of dollars in the past 6 months, trillions of dollars, and now, with this bill, they want to spend another \$3½ trillion.

Democrats literally believe that Big Government is the answer. They believe Big Government will solve these problems and will help Americans prosper.

At the same time, they are disincentivizing work and advancing policies that increase dependence on the Federal Government as if they don't even understand that those who are working and businesses creating jobs and prospering are the ones who are paying the taxes that will pay for these programs. I just don't get it.

Republicans have a far different answer. We believe in the American people. We believe in their creativity, their hard work, their ingenuity. We believe in achieving the American Dream. I have lived that American Dream.

I was born in an Old Order Amish family, number 10 of 12 children. My father was first a farmer and then a roofer, raising 12 children on that income. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school. I paid for my own education. My parents required me to attend a private Christian school.

I bought a small business when I was 17 years old, operating out of a spare bedroom in my parents' home, and lived the American Dream. Over 25 years, I grew, with other family members, that company to be a leader in the type of construction we were doing, creating jobs for hundreds of Americans, family-sustaining jobs.

There are stories like that all across this body, all across the district that I represent, all across the country. It is what we call the American Dream, the idea that every generation can do better than their parents' generation and their grandparents' generation before them.

I think we have a choice in this body, and I think the choice is clear. Will we allow the government to dictate every facet of American life, or will we renew our trust in the American people and in their freedom? That is a question that will determine how our kids and our grandkids will be able to live and whether they have the same opportunities that we had.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, whose side I am on. I am on the side of the American people. We have already seen the damage done as a result of these policies that the Democrats have implemented.

We are seeing inflation where the American people are paying more for goods, and their paycheck is buying less than it did before. It is only going to get worse if we continue going down this path. These programs can only be paid for with more debt, printing money, or raising taxes on hard-working Americans. It doesn't work.

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Tell me a time in history when it has worked, when a country has overdelivered, overspent, and overpromised.

Mr. Speaker, we have a choice in this body. Every American's desire to achieve greatness is what has made our country the envy of the world.

Let's reject these policies and let's put us on a path to allowing every American the chance to achieve their own American Dream.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to section 513, 529, and 529A of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Section 513 would require our daughters to register for Selective Service, which is the database behind the military draft.

I thank Congressman GREEN and Congressman DAVIDSON for allowing me the opportunity to cosponsor their amendments to strip this provision from the bill.

Unfortunately, the Rules Committee refused to make either amendment in order, meaning that Members are now not afforded the opportunity to vote their consciences on the issue of drafting our Nation's daughters.

Since our country's founding, women have played a vital role in many of the critical support functions in military forces. The choices these women made in raising their hands to volunteer, to wear the uniform, and to swear an oath to uphold the Constitution are commendable and should be honored. However, it is unconscionable to me that this body would enact a provision to force women into registering for Selective Service.

This would put women in a position where they could be called at random to report for duty before all registered males have been called in the extreme scenario of authorizing a draft during a national emergency.

First of all, adding women to Selective Service is unnecessary. Our Nation has been fortunate enough through volunteer enlistment to have a force that is battle-ready and capable of withstanding any threat posed by our adversaries. If that was not the case, we would not have had a completely voluntary military for the last 40 years. A draft has not been needed since the 1970s, and I am confident that if it ever did get to that point, we would have more than enough men to satisfy the need for increased combatants. And that is the purpose of the draft, to increase available combatants to replace combatants after casualty losses. Thus, this provision is nothing more than an attempt to search for a solution to a problem that would not exist.

In 2015, combat positions were open to women who could meet the physical requirements, but only a small number of women were able to meet those requirements because men and women are distinctly different and not the same physically.